



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New York District

## RIKERS ISLAND, NY

### Section 103 Project

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#### FACT SHEET

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**DESCRIPTION:** Rikers Island is a 440 acre island lying near the confluence of the East River and Long Island Sound in the Bronx, New York. The island is used entirely as a correctional facility which is a vital component of the New York City Department of Correction Municipal system. The majority of the island is developed, with 10 major jails for incarcerating more than 16,000 inmates. The remaining parcels of land are devoted for support and operational facilities, including administrative, judicial and rehabilitative centers; transportation and sewage pumping facilities; and associated infrastructure which support inmate and staff essential needs.

A large portion of Rikers Island consists of reclaimed land which has been expanded over the years since the original 90 acre island was purchased by the City of New York in 1884. Most of the island's shoreline was initially stabilized with an original stone and cribwall structure. Only remnants of the structure still exist along the northeast shoreline of the island as a result of damage from storms, particularly the December 1992 northeaster which caused relatively dramatic storm induced shoreline recession and reduced the stone and cribwall system to a pile of rubble in front of the shoreline embankments. Overall, approximately 2,000 feet of embankment was scoured excessively, posing hazardous conditions to administrative facilities, the ferry landing dockhouse, and the newly constructed north pump station facility. Immediate shore protection measures are needed along a critical 350 foot long segment of eroded embankment which fronts the north pump station facility. As the embankment continues to erode, the pump station will become increasingly vulnerable to damage from more frequent storms.

**AUTHORIZATION:** This study was authorized by Section 103 of the River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended. The effort is currently in the Planning, Design and Analysis (PDA) phase initiated in January 1994, which also includes Plans and Specifications (P&S) preparation. The recommended (NED) plan of improvement consists of: a stone revetment alternative, which would provide a 22 year level of protection over a 15 year project life to an approximately 350 foot section of the northeast shoreline. The revetment would be constructed to +14 ft NGVD and consist of 2 layers of armor stone units placed on a slope of 1(v):1.5(h), covering 2 layers of underlayer stone and filter cloth. The width of the revetment will serve as a splash apron to resist erosion from wave overtopping. Grass plantings will be planted landward of the structure to prevent erosion of fill material placed at existing grade.

**STATUS:** The feasibility study was completed in September 1994. A Finding of No Significant Impact is dated March 1995. Congressional representative Charles Rangel has shown support for Federal involvement in this area. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York City Department of Corrections (NYCDOC) support ongoing efforts. The execution of the joint Project Cooperation Agreement and project construction has been deferred, subject to resolution of local funding issues.

#### PROJECT (FEASIBILITY STUDY) COST:

Estimated Federal Cost	\$1,040,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	\$560,000
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Total	\$1,600,000

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District Area: NY #15, Congressional Member: Charles Rangel